

M&M**FOOD
MARKET**NEW products
NEW packaging
NEW name**Fully Cooked
Jumbo Chicken Wings**14-20 PIECES 907 g/2 lb
• Crispy • Buffalo
• Extreme Crunch**save \$7****Thai Sweet and
Spicy Dipping
Sauce** 350 mL**3.99****OPEN HOUSE**Our largest tasting event of the year!
Tasting will be available from 11am-2pm and 3-6 pm
each day of the week. Look for the tasting icon inside.TASTE
this
week**YOUR
CHOICE**Fully Cooked Chicken Wings
Oriental Party Pak, On Skewer Ring**9.99****MAX
SPECIAL****Oriental
Party Pak**

48-58 PIECES 800 g

save \$4**Shrimp Ring**

42-48 SHRIMP 454 g

Premium quality, fully
cooked, Pacific
white shrimp.**save \$6****4 DAYS ONLY****FRIDAY
25
NOVEMBER****SATURDAY
26
NOVEMBER****SUNDAY
27
NOVEMBER****MONDAY
28
NOVEMBER****Slow Cooked
Beef Pot Roast** 907 g
Slow cooked for ten hours to deliver
mouth-watering pot roast every time.**13.99** **MAX
SPECIAL**
save \$5.50**LIMIT OF 3 PER CUSTOMER****ALL PRICES IN EFFECT FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25 TO THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2016 UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.**

St. Catharines 210 Glendale Ave. 905-682-3121

St. Catharines 353 Lake St. 905-646-8812

St. Catharines 100 Fourth Ave. 905-682-6328

Niagara Falls 6225 Thorold Stone Rd. 905-354-0186

Grimsby 36 Main St. E. 905-945-9400

Welland 30 Rice Rd. 905-735-6819

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MANAGED
COMPANIES**
Pulse member



FOOD MARKET

NEW products.
NEW packaging. NEW name

OPEN HOUSE

Flatbreads 440 g - 515 g
Choose from three varieties.
Authentic stone-baked flatbreads
loaded with flavourful toppings.

7⁹⁹

TASTE
this
week

Delicate
Barbecue
Chicken



**Boneless
Chicken Breasts
Seasoned & Skinless**

8-12 PORTIONS 1.36 kg/3 lb

Consistently plump and juicy.

16⁹⁹ **save \$4**

MAX
SPECIAL



Garlic Shrimp

9-12 PIECES 340 g

Jumbo butterflied shrimp are
marinated with the savoury taste
of garlic and herbs.

save \$3
13⁹⁹



**Crinkle Cut
Fries** 300 g

3⁹⁹

**Tartar
Sauce**
210 mL

1⁹⁹

**Battered Haddock
Fillets** 5-7 PIECES 680 g

9⁹⁹ **save \$4**

MAX
SPECIAL

ALL PRICES IN EFFECT **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25 TO THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2016** UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

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旋
興
酒
家

Over 40 items
in our Buffet including
hot & cold choices

Lunch Buffet \$9, Dinner \$12.50
Fully Licensed - Open 7 days
Now Hiring

405 MAIN STREET, PORT COLBORNE 905-834-6683

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2016

Costly recommendations

About 18 more ambulances
might be needed.
Page 3

Off the air

New Year's Eve show wont be broadcast.
Page 5

#1 Home Seller
in Port Colborne/Wainfleet
16 Years in a Row

FRANK RUZYCKI
REAL ESTATE
905-834-7653
Give me a Call to Sell YOUR Home

RE/MAX Downsway Port Colborne
143 Clarence Street
PortColborneHomes.com WainfleetHomes.com

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For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca

Historic journey



Abbey
Starsfield,
program
coordinator
for the Port
Colborne
Heritage
and Marine
Museum's
oral history
project,
flips
through
the pages
of some of
the history
the L.R.
Wilson
Heritage
Research
Archives
already has
collected.
See story on
Page 2.

LAURA BARTON/
POSTMEDIA
NETWORK

HomeTownRealEstateTeam.ca

Michael Smith
Sales Representative

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Giving a voice to history

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

Port Colborne Heritage and Marine Museum is planning a unique way to share the city's history for the Canada 150 celebrations that will be taking place next year.

Abbeys Stansfield is the project co-ordinator for the museum's oral history project, which aims to help seniors feel more included in the community.

"A lot of people don't feel that their life has been exciting or important enough, but that's what this project is about: to show them they've all played a part in making the city what it is today," she told city council last Monday night.

The project started in October but will continue until February, when it will culminate as a "living library." The

library will be open to everyone, but will focus on engaging youth with the seniors in the community. Youth will have a chance to "check out" a senior from the library and hear their story firsthand.

Stansfield described it as a way to bridge the gap between generations.

Ward 1 Coun. Dave Elliott said the idea is great.

"I think that is something that more cities should look into," he said of the project. "To have younger people sit down and talk to older residents that had an impact on their city and hear their stories firsthand instead of just reading about them in a short little passage, but to actually have a chance to sit down and discuss and hear what these people have lived, is a great opportunity for our students."

Stansfield will also be speaking with seniors and

transcribing what they share with her in a booklet.

"One copy will be available at the [L.R. Wilson Heritage Research Archives] so people can research them," she said. "The others will actually go to the participants so they have something to give to their families, and they will also receive a tintype."

A tintype is a popular type of photography from Confederation in 1867. Stansfield said the museum has found a photographer who is able to do tintype photography and he will be doing portraits of each person involved in the oral history project.

"We're going to make an exhibit of these portraits," she said. "(It) will be there during the living library day."

The living library day will be Feb. 21 at the L.R. Wilson Heritage Research Archives. The entire project is called

This Place Matters My Canada: Oral History and Living Library Project. People interested in participating can contact Abbeys Stansfield at 905-321-8859 or projectcoordinator@portcolborne.ca.

It was also shared at council that the museum applied for and will receive a Canada 150 Fund grant of \$22,800 to go towards other Canada 150 community events.

larton@postmedia.com

SUPPLIED PHOTO

This tintype plate of a gentleman named Tom Smith is an example of the work Stephen Brûlé of The Silver Sunbeam will be doing for the Port Colborne Heritage and Marine Museum's Canada 150 project. This Place Matters My Canada: Oral History and Living Library Project.



Quarry proposal troubles neighbours

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

Port Colborne Quarries neighbours are worried about changes proposed for the property northeast of highways 3 and 140.

There were many concerns and very few answers inside city council chambers last Monday night when residents showed up to learn more about a proposal to rezone the mining property to permit heavy industrial uses.

"When you don't have the details, you have to assume the worst case," said resident Harry Wells.

Wells told council he had a

list of 70 questions he wanted answers to.

But he wouldn't find many of them at council.

The rezoning plan came before council as a change from the owners of the quarry, Jody Johnston, a solicitor for Ard and Berlis LLP on behalf of the quarry, made a presentation about why the application is being made.

"It is an opportune time to think about future uses and future opportunities with the land," she said.

The quarry's application outlines a plan to broaden allowed uses of the site. At present, it is slated for mining uses, but the application

requests a redesignation and rezoning to include other industrial uses.

The theory behind it is should any company come knocking and looking for a place to set up, that part of the paperwork would already be done, Johnston said.

Residents and councillors alike were concerned that because no such company has actually come along looking for land the rezoning would leave too much room for industries they wouldn't want in the area.

The plan also didn't sit well with folks who have not seen any environmental impact studies and who are con-

cerned about an aquifer that runs under the quarry and feeds nearby water wells.

Water contamination is the primary concern among residents and councillors.

"For me, I live out there. I depend on a well as many, many people out in Ward 4 do," said Coun. Barbara Butters.

"I want that study. I want that answer to that question, answered before this goes one step further."

Her declaration was met with a mass of applause from residents who attended the meeting.

Johnston, however, was quick to assure those people

present that approving the application does not mean anyone may come into the area and put the environment and people at risk.

"If a rezoning occurs, things don't go forward and get built until all of the other regulatory requirements are met and whatever reporting and studies that go along with that take place," she said.

City planning and development director Dan Aguilera told council there are prohibitions in the municipality, and "noxious use" would be one of those.

Still, residents and council were firm in wanting to see studies and more informa-

tion before approving anything.

Another issue brought up concerned rehabilitation of the land, which Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet said is a requirement in the Mining Act in Ontario. Mined land must be rehabilitated to as close to its former state as possible, so there is question of where that would fall into this application.

Ultimately, council came to the decision that more information is needed and the issue will be brought back, with answers to questions asked, at a later date.

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LOCAL NEWS

Major changes prescribed for ambulances

MARYVETTE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

Niagara EMS has undergone a checkup that has yielded several costly recommendations deemed necessary to keep its vital signs strong.

The Niagara Emergency Medical Services master plan was recently presented to the public health and social services committee, outlining challenges that exist in the system and offering potential paths to a future solution.

"We've done a lot of work... We spent a number of months looking into everything we can think of in the EMS system," said Jon Hamblides of Pomax Consulting Inc., a London-based firm hired by Niagara Region in March to complete the master plan strategy that looks forward to 2027.

Hamblides explained to councillors Niagara will be facing "a lot of pressure" in the coming decade and beyond. There is a need for additional resources in the EMS system, equally funded by the Region and Ministry of Health.

In an effort to "flatten what's going to happen over the next 10 years," Hamblides urged the Region to invest in hiring a team of researchers to study local emergency calls and the path patients take when they move through the system.

More information is needed to find a solution for the continually increasing ambulance call load, which has been outpacing Niagara's population



JULIE JOGSM/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Nathanael Alaimo, advanced care paramedic and Lella Paugh, primary care paramedic.

growth annually, climbing by an average of six per cent compared to one per cent growth.

With Niagara's population projected to increase by nearly 41,000 people by 2031, the only options available moving forward are continuing to increase resources substantially in the system or to find an alternative operating method, Hamblides said.

If no changes are made, the Region, depending on the growth model used to forecast future need, will require an additional seven to 18 24-hour ambulances, each at

a cost of about \$1 million, to satisfy demand by 2027.

With the volume of calls at times exceeding available resources in some municipalities currently, including St. Catharines and Niagara Falls, there is an immediate need for two additional ambulances, likely 24 hours each and requiring 35,000 staffed hours per year, he said.

The advantage of a regional EMS system is that resources of other municipalities can be reallocated, whether permanently or temporarily, to satisfy the need and help to ease those existing pressures.

"Wherever the call load is, the ambulances can flow to," Hamblides said, adding staff hours available in communities with less demand can also help to defray the cost.

But he stressed that moving resources is only a Band-Aid fix to a systemic issue of increasing call volumes that needs to be addressed as it will only continue going forward.

Ambulance responses are expected to nearly double over the next 10 years to more than 100,000 from an estimated 57,000 in 2016.

Story continued on Page 30

COUNCIL NOTEBOOK

Port Colborne site of 2017 fishing event

Ben Woo, president of Berkley B.I. came before city council last Monday night to propose a fishing event for August 2017.

The event would be part of a five-location championship tournament in which anglers from across the country would come compete.

Woo, who said fishing is a part of Canada's DNA, wants to bring the event to Port Colborne because of its great fishing waters.

He said all he is looking for is the OK to say Port Colborne would be a venue. Other details could be worked out at a later time.

Putting a news release out by Dec. 1, he said, is important because that's when competitors would be looking at what events they want to attend for the following year.

Council agreed to the use of Port Colborne as a venue and will be in talks with Woo for further details.

Welland SPCA doing what it can in dog attack

Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny brought a letter about a dog attack from a concerned resident to council.

In the letter, the resident claimed no action had been taken against a vicious dog that had allegedly attacked both a child and another dog.

Amanda Ellis, an animal control officer with Welland and District Humane Society, shed some light on the situation and told council the incident is being looked into.

The dog in question did not bite a child, but did allegedly attack another dog, which had to be euthanized due to its injuries, she said.

The attacking dog does not live in Port Colborne. Whenever it comes to the city it will have to be muzzled and leashed at all times in public.

While the resident questioned via the letter why nothing had been done in terms of the Dog Owner's Liability Act, Ellis said the owner of the dog that had to be put down is taking legal action.

Planning and development director Dan Aquilina told council that staff are looking into what can be done legally on issues such as this.

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St. Catharines bakery provides plenty of edible options

TIFFANY
MAYER

Jennifer Kuzyk's eyes glistened as she put the final flourishes on a chocolate cake. It was stunning in its decadence — a beautiful mess of Toblerone, Turtles, popcorn, Kisses, 24 carat gold leaf and a Carly Wurlz that took it from mere baked good to art.

But that's not what made the owner of Edible Options emotional.

It was the trio of women at a nearby table in Kuzyk's St. Catharines bakery that overwhelmed her. They were gabbing over coffee, sharing stories and treats in the shop that Kuzyk built.

"I pinch myself when I think about what's happening behind me. People are in my space, enjoying my baking. It's like a dream," Kuzyk said as she looked skyward in an effort to dam the tears. "They chose to come here instead of Starbucks. That's pretty cool."

As a writer, I get it — the soul-baring and soul-bearing work of creating something for others to enjoy. And when they do enjoy it, it's a relief that tricks you into wanting to do it again.

Still, Kuzyk's unfiltered emotion caught me off guard. If anyone could convince people to buck mass-produced treats from one of the world's most popular coffee chains, it's Kuzyk.

The woman is formidable, not just for her cake decorating prowess but because of her tenacity in building a successful certified gluten-free bakery that, unless you asked, you'd never know eschewed that most reviled wheat protein.

She tested and tweaked her recipe for gluten-free bread 38 times before she sunk her teeth into what she deemed the perfect loaf. It's one that closely resembles all those gluten-filled versions.

It's moist and cohesive, unlike the scads of commercial loaves that have to stay frozen so they don't crumble into Sahara-dry bits that flavour fog.

"I told myself I wouldn't open until I had awesome bread," Kuzyk said.

But her story begins long before that; long before opening her bakery last June was even a possibility.

I first encountered Kuzyk's baking magic five years ago when I saw her macarons advertised on the Niagara Local Food Co-op website. My sweet tooth won over my voice of reason and I found myself ordering a batch of the delicate meringue sandwiches.

They were beasts. They didn't just boast the beautiful bubbly feet that every macaron



Jennifer Kuzyk owns Edible Options, a gluten-free bakery in St. Catharines.

TIFFANY MAYER/SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

baker squeals over. These things had legs. They were sublime. Their lightness was deceptive, lulling me into thinking they would barely register on my waistline if I ate two or three in one sitting.

At the time, Kuzyk told me in an interview that baking was a sideline project she started to help a friend with celiac disease.

"I loved the challenge of turning something gluten-free," Kuzyk said. "I'd make recipes (from a book or website) and they'd never look as good as the photo or comments under the recipe."

Soon, though, she was making gluten-free pizza crusts for a downtown pizzeria. Her macarons and cookies were appearing in local bakershops.

Kuzyk would return home at the end of clocking a full day as a plant inspector with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, spend some time with her young son, then fill orders in a commercial kitchen for five hours every night.

After four hours sleep, she'd wake and do it all over again. One day on the commute to her day job with its relative security and great benefits, her husband Kyle told her to "go big or go home."

"When are you going to get the chance to

do this again?" Kuzyk recalled him asking.

So she took a leave of absence from the CFIA and took a chance this spring on a space in a new Fourth Avenue strip mall.

A sign that reads "Actually, I can" hangs in the open kitchen where her staff turn out 400 loaves of gluten-free bread a week to the soundtrack of whirring stand-mixers. The sign was a gift from family to keep Kuzyk on track during those moments of self-doubt and anxiety that every entrepreneur has when they take the leap.

I can't think of three words a better suited to Kuzyk as I scan the offerings of cupcakes, cookies, those macarons and date squares that rival her bread in popularity. Most days they sell out. Leftovers go home with staff and never see a second day on the shelf.

There are two words you will never see, however: Gluten-free.

Most of the items on offer don't contain many common food allergens, including refined sugar, corn and legumes. Kuzyk will happily share her ingredient list with any customer who asks.

She even has a dedicated vegan oven for the plant-based dieters. Her connections at the CFIA tipped her off about how to keep the nut-free crowd safe by avoiding cross-

contamination.

It all makes her bakery inclusive of a wide range of diets but Kuzyk knows how off-putting that can be for some.

"You will not see gluten-free. We'd tell people we're gluten-free and they'd say 'I eat gluten' and walk out the door. The history of gluten-free food, people think it's crumbly and dry."

But it's people like the trio of women at the table nearby who are there because they can safely enjoy lunch or a treat — or because they don't care. Kuzyk's baking is that good — that leave her feeling grateful.

Ditto for the indebted mother who can finally give her child the birthday cake of his dreams, or the person with a gluten allergy who avoided bread for 40 years until now.

"People come in and say, 'I hear you have something gluten-free,'" Kuzyk says. "We tell them everything is and their heads spin."

— **Strip Mail Gums** is a monthly feature of **Eating Niagara** that focuses on the standout eateries sandwiched between the convenience stores, laundromats and shops in our plazas throughout the region. Got a favourite hole in the wall I should know about? E-mail eat@eatingniagara@gmail.com or tweet [@EatingNiagara](https://twitter.com/EatingNiagara).

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No TV deal for New Year's Eve show

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

Niagara Falls will again have a free New Year's Eve concert at Queen Victoria Park.

The bad news? Just like last year, you won't be watching it on TV.

Mayor Jim Diodati confirmed last Tuesday that efforts to bring the show back to television this year were unsuccessful. He says a changing media landscape and reluctance by the tourism industry to invest more money has left the show without a broadcaster for the second consecutive year.

He says an additional \$1 million to \$2 million would be required from the tourism industry for a TV deal. But because hotels are already "packed" on New Year's Eve, it was a tough sell.

"The tourism industry already does contribute to the show, and I get their dilemma," says Diodati. "They're saying, 'Let's invest, but let's invest in a concert when we're not already full!'"

"Bringing more people (on New Year's Eve) ... the cup's full, it's just going to overflow now."

Last year Tom Cochrane, Dennis DeYoung and Alan Doyle played a downsized show to about 35,000 people in the park, minus TV cameras. It was the first time in 25 years the concert wasn't broadcast across the province or country.

Diodati says a similar show is in store this year, with the lineup nearly finalized.

"We've got some good established talent and good emerging talent," he says. "What we have right now, it's going to appeal to a broader range (than last year)."

Even without a TV deal, the show is still one of the most unique ways to spend New Year's Eve in Canada, says Niagara Parks Commission chairwoman Janice Thomson.

"One of the mandates of it is to provide free entertainment on New Year's Eve for a large group of people," she says. "It provides a great sense of community and a great sense of celebration."

But she says the national

TV exposure was "important," and alternatives are being looked at for next year.

"We need to find a way to get that broadcast out, whether it's a TV broadcast, streaming, or something using a different creative idea."

Last year, after Global pulled out of broadcasting the show, Diodati all but guaranteed the concert would be back on Canadian television in 2016. He said details for a "multi-year" agreement with a national broadcaster would be announced shortly into the new year.

"It would make no sense to let an event with such widespread appeal simply fade away," he said last November.

But when a TV deal still wasn't announced by summer, Diodati said the same problems were to blame: Neither the networks nor tourism industry wanted to foot the show's \$3-million to \$4-million price tag.

That was the figure attached to the 2014 concert, headlined by Keith Urban, which had about 4.2 million viewers, turning in at midnight. Despite the huge ratings, Global backed out the following year. Global senior vice-president Christine Shipston said the "economic model did not allow us to move forward with the event this year."

With TV no longer an option, Diodati says a "completely new model" is being considered for 2017: Live-streaming across the Internet.

"We're looking at a social-media approach to New Year's Eve," he says. "It takes a lot more planning, because all of a sudden it becomes an international item."

"We know there's a model, so we're creating that and seeking out partners. We're starting way in advance. Although this year's show is great, we definitely miss the cache of having Niagara Falls featured on the national broadcast."

He doesn't regret jumping the gun to try the show would be back on TV this year.

"We were shooting high," he says. "I'd rather shoot high and miss than aim low and hit it."

jlav@postmedia.com



Demi Lovato performs at the 2013 New Year's Eve show in Niagara Falls, broadcast across Canada on Global. For the second straight year, this year's free concert at Queen Victoria Park won't be seen on TV.

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Dr. Andrew Taylor passes 100,000 mark in procedures

Lasik ProVision is the Niagara Peninsula's only comprehensive refractive centre which deals with the treatment of common visual disorders. The centre was founded in its current location in 1999 and has evolved to a state of the art refractive centre with a global reputation for the laser correction



Dr. Andrew Taylor

of nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. It is a world leader in bringing the treatment of Zeiss Laser Blended Vision for the treatment of presbyopic "reading glasses vision" to North America. In addition, the centre specializes in the treatment of cataracts and corneal disorders such as keratoconus.

Founder and medical director, Dr. Andrew W. Taylor, is one of North America's leading ophthalmologists in the use of excimer lasers in refractive surgery. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Toronto in 1991 and went on to complete a specialty residency in ophthalmology, also at the University of Toronto. He then went on to complete subspecialty training

in corneal and refractive disorders. He has completed over 100,000 refractive procedures including lasik, photorefractive keratectomy and cataract surgery to date. In addition to his directorship role at Lasik ProVision, Dr. Taylor is an active staff member of The Niagara Health System in the Department of Ophthalmology.

Lasik ProVision has evolved in its current location from its original incarnation as Lasik Vision, which brought affordable lasik eye surgery to North America. Dr. Taylor restructured Lasik Vision in 2001 as a founding principal and owner of Lasik MD, which then went on to expand refractive clinics across Canada. In 2005, Dr. Taylor left Lasik MD to focus on more customized patient eyecare. In addition to his base clinic in Niagara Falls, he underwent an international expansion to London, England, Brussels, Belgium and the United States. Currently, in addition to his work in Niagara Falls, Dr. Taylor is involved in the development of a comprehensive ophthalmic centre in Toronto.

"What is exciting now in refractive laser eye surgery is the safety of the procedure and the range of treatment options now available for patients. It is rare that a patient cannot benefit from refractive surgery" says Dr. Taylor. "The greatest development in recent years has been the use of the femtosecond laser for the creation of the flap upon which the lasik procedure is based. Not only does this create a thinner and more uniform flap which leads to better optical outcomes, it alleviates the need for a blade and cutting microkeratome which was for many patients the biggest hurdle preventing them from having refractive lasik surgery. The safety factor is so great, I no longer utilize the microkeratome blade in lasik eye surgery".

Dr. Taylor has extensive experience on several laser platforms. "While we started with the Bausch and Lomb platform in 1999, the industry has moved forward to provide greater customization for the unique optical errors of each individual patient. At Lasik ProVision, we currently and exclusively use the Carl Zeiss Meditec MEL 80 platform with the VisuMax femtosecond laser. "This platform in my belief delivers the optimal reshaping of the cornea to maintain the natural corneal shape for optimal optical correction and customization. Zeiss laser Blended Vision is unique in the treatment of presbyopia or "reading glasses vision". It is the only excimer laser platform that predictably increases the range of vision so patients can see at near, intermediate and far without the loss of stereovision. This is truly exciting. Previously, and on other laser platforms, we could only treat with monovision with one eye corrected for far and one eye corrected for distance. This left patients with a loss of intermediate vision and reduced stereoacuity. It worked, but Zeiss Laser Blended Vision works so much better."

What is the future of refractive surgery? "The future is continuing to refine the refractive outcome with ever safer and less invasive procedures. I am very excited that within the next year, we will begin to fully utilize the femtosecond laser's potential, going beyond the creation of better flaps to conducting the entire laser procedure within the cornea without a flap. This may sound like science fiction, but it is a reality and I am honoured that Zeiss has chosen to partner with Lasik ProVision in Niagara Falls to bring this technology to North America. To obtain additional information or to book your FREE consultation please contact our refractive counselors at 1-888-510-2020 or 905-371-3217 You may visit our website at www.lasikprovision.com

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LOCAL NEWS

Region invests \$1M in waterfront projects

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

A wave of regional funding is set to hit the shores of two waterfront projects.

Niagara Region has committed \$1 million in support of the Bay Beach master plan implementation in Fort Erie and the Centennial Gardens revitalization project in St. Catharines, investing \$850,000 and \$150,000 respectively.

The funding, approved by council last Thursday night, is provided through the Waterfront Investment Program, a cost-sharing initiative with local area municipalities and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. It replaces the former Lakefront Enhancement Strategy incentive program.

Fort Erie's Bay Beach project, with a total price tag of \$2.18 million, aims to increase public waterfront access by creating a mixed-use destination with recreational, commercial and residential accommodation and activities.

It will include pavilion upgrades, washrooms, kiosks, a multi-purpose event square, pedestrian terrace, children's play area, expansion and improvement of the Fowler's Toad habitat, mats to improve beach accessibility for people with disabilities, as well as other property improve-



St. Catharines Mayor
Walter Sendzik



Fort Erie Mayor
Wayne Redekop

ments.

"It's all part of the revitalization of that area of town, but it's also about taking advantage of the biggest public beach in Niagara," Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop said last Friday.

As it stands, the property attracts people "from all over the place," he said, with a busy weekend sometimes drawing more than 7,000 people to the beach.

With that comes issues in the area in terms of parking and bylaw enforcement relative to beach safety, which Redekop is confident the master plan project will help to address.

He called it "gratifying for us in Fort Erie" to know the Region is willing to partner on the venture, which is expected to get underway next year and continue into 2018.

Knowing the town was making a sizeable funding request, it was important to submit a detailed funding application, Redekop said, adding he feels that assisted in the project's success.

That application addressed concerns previously raised by councillors about ensuring projects funded through the waterfront program provide a return on investment.

"Our view is that this is a fantastic public investment that's going to generate a lot of private investment in the area," Redekop said.

"On the north side of Erie Road, we've got property that we will eventually be selling," he said, adding once improvements to Bay Beach are completed, the property's value and commercial interest should "significantly increase."

In addition to funding provided by the town and the Region, the project is seeing support from the community. The Ridgeway Lions Club has committed to funding the site's playground, Redekop said.

In St. Catharines, the Centennial Gardens project aims to result in new and improved amenities that will increase the park's public use, increase recreation opportunities, support neighbourhood revitalization and improve connections between the park and Queenston Street community.

With a total cost of \$920,000, it will include the reconstruction of the staircase that connects the park and Gale Crescent, trail improvements surrounding Dick's Creek, construction of a covered gathering space, and tree removal and maintenance to increase access to the creek.

The park, a historic site of the former Welland Canal, has "strong ties to our development as a city and as a region," said St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik.

"This investment will build on the work of the city and community partners who are creating new recreation opportunities along the waterway that weaves its way through the park."

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New surveillance system keeps watch at safety village

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

Niagara Safety Village is increasing its security in an effort to prevent a repeat of damage vandals caused earlier this year.

Thanks to a \$3,350 donation from CAA Niagara, the Welland-based was able to purchase six security cameras to keep an eye on things when no one is around.

"This is really important to us," said Shirley Cordiner, the learning centre's executive director.

"We can't have our miniature village destroyed again. It just can't happen."

The new, motion-sensitive surveillance system will send an alert to Cordiner's cellphone if someone is on the premises after hours. It will help protect the buildings, vehicles and other equipment the village uses to educate about 7,000 students annually from across the region.

Cordiner said as a non-profit centre, getting this kind

of donation is a "big deal." Relying only on donations, grants and fundmising, there isn't extra money left over to make purchases such as this.

Drew Chamberlain, president and chief executive officer of CAA Niagara, said when the agency heard about the vandalism to the safety village in January, it called Cordiner to see how it could help.

"CAA is very much involved in road safety and this aligns very well with what our advocacy is," he said. "It starts at this age."

Chamberlain said his own children have been through the village, so it really does impact everyone when this kind of damage is done.

Knowing the non-profit wouldn't have funds for this kind of equipment, CAA decided to make a monetary donation. Chamberlain said it was Cordiner who decided what surveillance cameras would be appropriate and meet their needs.

"We were glad to help out



LAURA BARTON/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Niagara Safety Village executive director Shirley Cordiner and CAA Niagara president and CEO Drew Chamberlain work together to bring a surveillance system to the learning centre to help protect it from vandalism.

that way and make sure this doesn't happen again," Chamberlain said.

Vandals in January caused about \$25,000 damage, which was devastating, Cordiner

said.

The small buildings and vehicles were targeted, although the main building was left alone.

Niagara Regional Police Cst.

Robin Bleich, who teaches several classes at the safety village, said the crime had a bigger impact than what could be seen on the landscape.

"Not only did the vandalism

obstruct the infrastructure, it limited our teaching ability in a police classroom," she said.

For instance, a school bus and ambulance that are key tools in her program.

She called CAA's gesture heartwarming and said she was appreciative as an officer, instructor and as a parent as well.

"Crime prevention, like any effective crime-reduction strategy, requires strong partnerships, whether that's through the public sector or the private sector," Bleich said.

Cordiner said if the vandals are ever caught and given community service hours, she wants them to do time at the safety village so they can see all it does and to understand the negative impact their actions had.

In the meantime, she's confident the new security cameras will deter any further damage to the village.

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The Transportation Master Plan will look at how we currently travel in and around Niagara and how we can improve our transportation systems, including options for walking, cycling and public transit, to better serve Niagara's future needs.

Get involved:

Residents are invited to attend a Public Information Centre in their community to learn how each of these projects contribute to Niagara's overall growth plan for the next 25 years, and how you can have your voice heard.

Nov. 30, 2016

City of Niagara Falls
Gale Centre, 5152 Thorold Stone Rd.,
4-8 p.m.

Dec. 6, 2016

City of Thorold
Niagara Region Headquarters
(Atrium), 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way
4-8 p.m.

Dec. 7, 2016

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
Community Centre, 14 Anderson Lane,
4-8 p.m.

Dec. 8, 2016

Town of Lincoln
Flaming Centre, 5020 Serena Dr.,
4-8 p.m.

There is an opportunity at any time during this process for interested persons to bring comments and concerns to the attention of the project managers, and to review outstanding issues. If you have any questions or comments or wish to be added to the study mailing list, please contact us at niagararegion.ca/2041.

The Transportation and Water and Wastewater studies follow the Master Plan process as outlined in Section A.2.7 of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Oct 2000, as amended in 2000, 2011 and 2015). The Master Plan will be filed under Approach #2 of the MEA Class EA Approach for Master Planning. The Master Servicing Plan will satisfy the planning requirements for Schedule A, A+ and select Schedule B projects and provide the basis for future investigations of identified Schedule B and C projects.

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to access the project documents, contact the Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or 1-800-263-7215 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca to make the appropriate arrangements.

Welland supports Canada Games bid

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Welland could play a major role in the 2021 Canada Summer Games, if Niagara's bid to host the event is successful.

Councillors approved a memorandum of understanding last Tuesday evening, adding the city's support to efforts by Niagara's games bid committee to bring Canada's largest sports event to the region.

Matt Hill, director of sport and venues for the bid committee, said "all 12 Niagara municipalities will see participation through sport along with different cultural opportunities that we will see throughout the games, should we be successful in hosting it."

In Welland, three ven-

ues will be utilized for sports events, including the Welland International Flatwater Centre for canoe, kayak, triathlon and open water swimming competitions, the Young's Sportsplex for tennis and soccer competitions, and baseball games will be held at Welland's Stadium on Quaker Road.

"Welland, I can safely say, will be heavily involved in the hosting of the games," Hill said. "Welland will be a critical component to these games."

But Hill said there will need to be some upgrades to bring Welland facilities up to Canada Games standards.

"Those are primarily at the baseball stadium," he said.

The dugouts, bullpens and outfield fence will require upgrades, while there may

also be opportunities to improve the audio and lighting systems at the facility.

Those improvements will cost about \$127,000, with 50 per cent of the cost covered by upper-tier government funding. In addition, the city will be asked to waive about \$230,000 in rental fees for the use of the facilities when the games are held in August, 2021.

While most councillors voted in favour of the non-binding MOU agreement, Ward 5 Coun. Rocky Letourneau remained concerned after the city's experience of hosting 2015 Pan Am Games.

"As the Pan Am Games showed us, we did not get all the events that we were thinking we were going to get at the flatwater centre."

Letourneau said. "So I'm kind of leery of supporting something like this."

“Welland, I can safely say, will be heavily involved in the hosting of the games.”

Matt Hill, director of sport and venues for the bid committee

Ward 4 Coun. Pat Chiochio objected to the comparison.

"I don't see this as being anything close to the Pan Am

Games. I think this is good for our community," he said.

Chiocchio also hoped that some of the city's share of facility upgrade costs could be raised through community contributions.

Ward 5 Coun. Mike Petrachenko called the event "a chance for us to showcase our three facilities."

"It's a chance for all of Canada to be present at the facilities."

Ward 2 Coun. Leo Van Vleet said the baseball stadium requires upgrades anyway. By participating in the games, he said the city can get half the cost of those upgrades paid for with upper-tier funding.

"The fact that someone else is going to pay 50 per cent is even better," he said.

Although bids must also include a \$3-million contri-

bution from the host community, that money will come from the Niagara Region rather than individual municipalities such as Welland.

Welland's large francophone population and French heritage will also play a role in the region's bid, offering cultural opportunities for athletes and fans that participate

"There are some very unique cultural components. While this is a sporting event, it is also very much a cultural event for our community and Canada," Hill said.

Niagara's official bid will be submitted at the end of January, competing with bids from Ottawa, Kitchener-Waterloo and Sudbury to host the games.

The winning bid will likely be announced in April.

[illegible]

That time Trump wanted to build a casino in Ontario



Q: Did Donald Trump ever try to expand his casino empire to this side of the border?

A: Niagara Fallsview Casino could have been called Trump Fallsview if things had gone a little dif-

ferently.

The real estate magnate turned U.S. President-elect was involved in one of the original consortiums that vied to build and operate a permanent casino in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

It's a little footnote in the history of a casino which transformed an area of the city and generated massive excitement in the years leading up to its opening.

In November 1994, 65 per cent of Niagara Falls residents voted yes to casino gaming in a refer-



U.S. President-elect Donald Trump.

endum. A year later, the Ontario Casino Corporation announced a commer-

cial casino would be built in Niagara Falls.

An interim casino came first and opened to great fanfare in December 1996. While it was still under construction, the province asked for bids to design, build and operate a permanent casino.

In March 1997, four consortiums bid on the contract — Falls Management Co., Fallsview, Seven Wonders of Niagara and Trump International Casino Ltd. with local developer Harry Oakes.

Trump met with Buffalo area officials on April 11, 1997 in an attempt to gain support for his Ontario casino idea. Associated Press reported that Ontario officials told potential developers that their bids would have a better shot of being chosen if they had some kind of regional plan which included economic development on the U.S. side of the border.

"I feel a joint effort would be positive for the whole area," Trump said after meeting with Buffalo's mayor and an Erie County executive.

Trump's hope, the article said, was to convince American politicians to endorse his plan to Ontario gaming officials.

Ultimately, the province announced in February 1998 that the casino contract was being awarded to Falls Management Co., led by hotel giant Hyatt Development Corporation of Chicago.

The chair of the selection committee said they received four excellent proposals and that each "rose to the top."

The project was given the name Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort in August 2003. Although one of losing consortiums called itself Fallsview, the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation said the casino's name was selected from more than 300 suggestions that emerged from focus groups and brainstorming sessions.

The largest gaming facility in Canada opened in June 2014 with 2.5 million square feet in total. It is, many people are saying, HUGE.



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MIKE DINIATISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Forty-nine-year-old Fast Eddy McDonald was in Niagara Falls Thursday, and broke the Guinness World Record for the most hop the fence yo-yo tricks in one minute.

Fast Eddy breaks yo-yo record in Niagara Falls

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

Fast Eddy McDonald is no one trick pony.

The 49-year-old Hamilton man was in Niagara Falls last Thursday in an attempt to break Guinness World Record for the most hop the fence yo-yo tricks in one minute.

On his second attempt, McDonald completed 145 tricks, breaking the existing record of 144 repetitions set in July 2008 in the United Kingdom.

"My arm feels like Jello now," he told the crowd gathered at the entrance to the Guinness World Records Museum on Clifton Hill.

McDonald has been busy practicing the trick in preparation for the record attempt.

"I broke the record in my living room for the past three nights," he said.

McDonald is no stranger to the world of Guinness.

He holds the Guinness World Records title for most loop the loop yo-yo tricks in one hour (8,437) and three hours (21,683).

He previously held the record for most yo-yo tricks in one minute, which has since been beaten.

McDonald picked up the classic toy as a kid.

"I fell in love with it," he recalled.

At 16, he received a sponsorship through Coca-Cola and travelled the world, showcasing his yo-yo skills.

Decades later, he's still obsessed.

"You can never master it," he said. "It's like golf. Golf is a game you can play and never be an expert at. It's the same with a yo-yo. It's never ending."

McDonald has performed

in more than 25 countries around the world and has been featured on both Canadian and U.S. television.

The event was part of a global celebration of the 12th consecutive Guinness World Record Day.

Launched to celebrate the day the Guinness World Records book sold its 100 millionth copy, this year's world record day saw upwards of 600,000 people around the world attempting to secure their place in the history books.

Other events included the largest human image of a cloud, the largest display of origami elephants and magician in the U.K. attempted to break the record for the most magic tricks performed while skydiving.

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Niagara Whalers Jr. A Hockey Team

The Niagara Whalers defeated the Lincoln Mavericks 3-0 Friday November 19th and continued their push to stay atop in the South Division. Newly acquired goaltender Maksim Kuteinikov pushed aside 15 shots to earn his first shutout in his first game with the Whalers. Niagara outshot Lincoln 48-15. Leading the way was Matt Johns with a goal and an assist, while Black Luscombe and David Christopher scored the others. Niagara continued the momentum the following night as they played the Toronto Attack winning their second road game in as many nights. Niagara defeated the Attack 5-2 and outshooting Toronto 50-37. Maksim Kuteinikov continued his strong play kicking out 35 of 37 shots. Leading the way for the Whalers was Tyler Hore with a goal and 3 assists and Blake Luscombe with 2 goals and an assist. David Christopher and Zack Lansfield chipped in with two assists as the Whalers extended their winning streak to 11 games. Niagara Whalers host the Toronto Predators Friday November 25, game time 7:30 at the Vale Centre in Port Colborne

Conradi leaving Niagara newspapers

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

Peter Conradi, editor-in-chief for Postmedia in Niagara, is leaving the Niagara news business to take on a new role as managing editor at a newspaper in New Brunswick.

"I've been in Niagara pretty well all of my professional life," said the 57-year-old St. Catharines native.

"It was a very complicated and personal decision, but it was the right thing to do at this time."

For more than three decades, Conradi has played a prominent role with Niagara papers.

In recent years, under his leadership, *The Standard*, *Niagara Falls Review* and *Welland Tribune* have developed a strong presence on social media and have transitioned to offer streaming live video at meetings and events, as well as podcasts.

"I like the way we've always been able to innovate and try new things," Conradi said.

"I recognize the business is changing, and it's always changing. You have to always be looking for ways to grow and I like to think that I played a part in making sure of that."

Conradi has held a number of roles at *The Standard*, including sports reporter, sports editor and columnist, news editor and city editor.

"Peter pushed me to become a bet-

ter writer which served me well when I replaced him as sports editor in 2000," said Bernie Puchalski, regional sports editor for Postmedia in Niagara, who has worked with Conradi since 1997.

"He is a first-rate newspaper man and his presence will be missed at *The Standard* and all three daily Postmedia properties in Niagara."

Conradi spent four years as managing editor of the *Niagara Falls Review* and four months as managing editor at the *Welland Tribune*.

"When Peter came to the *Review* about 10 years ago, he picked up what was a tired newsroom and revitalized it," said Gord Howard, senior news editor for Postmedia in Niagara.

"He pushed reporters to do longer, more in-depth stories and that brought new energy to the paper and to the newsroom."

Howard, who worked with Conradi at both the *Review* and *The Standard*, described Conradi as "tenacious."

"Any politician who thinks he can duck a story by avoiding a reporter quickly learns that isn't the way Peter operates. He does not let go."

Mark Cressman, regional director of media sales for Postmedia in Niagara, agreed.

"Peter has been an incredible leader during these transitional times in this business," he said. "His passion is unmatched and he will be missed dearly."

Gerry Nott, senior vice-president of content with Postmedia, said Conradi has "shaped the journalism landscape in Niagara and impacted the community significantly."

"There cannot have been a story large or small that hasn't been written, assigned or edited by him over 30 years," he said. "At this later stage of his career, for him to accept a new challenge in a different province speaks to his passion for the business."

Conradi also spent three years as publisher at *Bullet News Niagara* and was a journalism instructor at Niagara College.

He will take the helm at *The Daily Gleaner* in New Brunswick Dec. 12. The newspaper is a member of Brunswick News, which has about 30 publications across the province.

alangley@postmedia.com
Twitter: @alangley



JULIE JOCKAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Peter Conradi, current editor-in-chief of the St. Catharines Standard, will be departing for the east coast of the country where he will take over the managing editor position of the *Fredericton Daily Gleaner*.

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Political young gun stands up

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Sam Oosterhoff stood at the side of Ontario Street in Beamsville last Friday afternoon, waiting at passing cars while holding a sign thanking people for putting their faith in him.

And in the years to come, the 19-year-old who has become the youngest MPP in Ontario's history said he hopes to do all he can to live up to expectations of the 17,651 people who voted for him a day earlier.

"You could sense that there was a readiness for change and a readiness for sending a strong message. I'm really excited to be the voice of that change," said Oosterhoff, who held onto the Niagara-West Glanbrook riding for the Progressive Conservative Party in last Thursday's provincial by-election.

"It's great to be here today thanking everyone, because it means we won and that's big." He said the reality of the achievement has "sunk in."

But winning the election was the latest in a growing list of achievements for the home-schooled newcomer to politics.

"It's a humbling experience, the whole process - right from



ALLAN BENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Newly-elected Niagara-West Glanbrook MPP Sam Oosterhoff thanks voters after Thursday's by-election, last Friday.

the beginning of the nomination, the amount of trust that the PC members placed in

me, and moving forward during the campaign seeing the response at the doors and just

feeling the momentum building towards the end," he said. Oosterhoff said being

accepted by Progressive Conservative to represent riding that has been a party strong-

hold means a lot to him.

"I believe very firmly that only truly fiscally responsible government would be a PC government," he said. "We've seen the damage from the Rae days (referring to NDP Premier Bob Rae who led the province in the 1990s), and from 13 years of Kathleen Wynne's Liberals. I'm very excited to be part of the PC team because I believe they present a vision of a better Ontario that we don't see in the other parties. I think voters in this region realize that and they have for some time now."

"I'm very proud to continue the tradition of the PC party in Niagara West Glanbrook, for sure."

Oosterhoff said the next step for him is to set up his constituency offices in the riding, as well as his office in Toronto, while thanking people who were instrumental in his campaign.

From there, he plans to get down to work focusing on issues like "bringing hydro rates under control, to focus on health care investments here in the riding, and to see what we can do to bring jobs back here and across Ontario."

See OOSTERHOFF, Page 27

Region on pace to hit goals

RAY SPITERI
Postmedia Network

Halfway through its four-year term, Niagara regional council has completed 60 per cent of its strategic priority projects, says Chairman Alan Caslin.

"I'm pleased to report at the two-year milestone that we are on track with our strategic plan," he told reporters during a media briefing last Thursday morning.

"We've never had as much success as we have had over the past 24 months, and we've got two years left to go."

In February 2015, council approved six strategic priorities around growth, employ-

ment, investment, infrastructure, taxation and community measures.

The priorities included: Moving people and goods; investment, innovation and entrepreneurship; labour-ready workforce; positioning Niagara globally; doing business differently; and organizational excellence.

Council originally included 25 priority projects, and later added five new projects. "For example, under moving people and goods, Niagara was successful in convincing the provincial government to commit to bringing weekday GO train service to Niagara by 2021."

Caslin said that was one of

council's top priorities.

As for positioning Niagara globally, Caslin said Niagara has been federally designated as a foreign trade zone, which is "going to have a significant impact" on the region, as it receives funding to attract global investment.

He said Niagara Region is also in the process of developing a more efficient and effective transit system connecting Niagara's municipalities. "During the last 24 months, we've seen remarkable progress on a number of different fronts," said Caslin.

"For instance, retaining our talent in the under-35 demographic, making Niagara globally attractive, and also, for

a first time, growing Niagara's population by 10,000 people.

"We're approaching these strategic initiatives in a unified and proactive way, ensuring that everything that we do is streamlined and consistent with our strategic plan."

When it comes to youth retention, the Region has formed partnerships through a U35 steering committee comprised of business, school, public and private sectors.

A partnership has also been achieved with the Niagara Workforce Planning Board to monitor data and operational programming to retain and attract youth.

David Oakes, the Region's director of economic devel-



DON THYMESZ/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Regional Chairman Alan Caslin speaks as Niagara Region management provided an update of progress in their strategic plan Thursday.

opment, said the Region has formed "really strong" relationships with Brock University, Niagara College, and Innovate Niagara.

"We've been able to use the

partnerships with those institutions to help deliver some of the economic development initiatives," he said.

See REGION, Page 27

Switch flipped on festival of lights

TONY RICCIUTO
Postmedia Network

With more lights added, there is definitely more for visitors to see during this year's Ontario Power Generation Winter Festival of Lights.

The festival opened Saturday night with a flip-the-switch ceremony at Queen Victoria Park, and runs through Jan. 31.

"We feel this is the best winter festival celebration anywhere," said Niagara Parks Commission chairwoman Janice Thomson as she welcomed guests to the 34th edition of the festival.

The NPC has invested \$300,000 on lighting, programming and infrastructure improvements within Queen Victoria Park.

Thomson said the festival has grown in recent years to become a "much wider destination event, and this year it's no different."

New additions include the Holiday Market at Grand View Marketplace and a three-metre-tall 3D woolly mammoth as part of the Canadian wildlife displays at Dufferin Islands.

This year, Niagara Parks presents Aura: Let It Glow, bringing several illumination-themed events to the festival throughout the entire 36-kilometre Niagara Parks system.

Rain that moved into the area Satur-



POSTMEDIA NETWORK

day afternoon raised some concerns for Tina Myers, the event's executive director, who kept her fingers crossed hoping it would clear.

"I can't tell you how many times I looked at the Weather Network and Environment Canada looking for that break and we got it," said Myers shortly before the first show kicked off at 6 p.m., followed by a fireworks display over the falls, and a second show one hour later.

Entertainment was provided by Niagara Star Singers, cirque performances by Zero Gravity Circus, and a laser light show.

"We're very pleased to be a part of the best winter light festival in North America," said Gerry Foote OPG's Niagara plant group manager.

"This year, we extended our title sponsorship and we couldn't be happier. It's well worth the trip to Niagara."

Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati said festival visitors are in for a treat because there will be so much more to experience, including new LED lights that will provide twice the current lighting levels to light the Horseshoe and American falls.

"It's spectacular," said Diodati, who was given a preview of the new \$4-million lighting system.

"It is bright, vibrant and you can actually see the pulsating of the water as it's coming down. It's beautiful. I

think people are going to be more excited about this festival than ever before."

An official lighting ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 1. The mayor said the festival is not just for tourists, it's a great way for locals to jump in the car and take in all the sights and sounds with members of their family.

Last year, the festival attracted more than 1.2 million visitors and had a direct economic impact of \$54 million within Niagara.

triccuto@postmedia.com

Niagara roundabouts

SEARCH ENGINE from Page 12

Q: I love the roundabouts that are being installed around Niagara. However, I was told by a European friend that drivers should be using their right-turn signals when exiting roundabouts (no one here does this). It seems like this would reduce confusion, reduce collisions and improve the flow of traffic at roundabouts. Is there a law in Ontario requiring drivers to signal right when exiting a roundabout? Can a driver be fined for failing to do so? If not, why?

A: Signals are your friend, even in a roundabout.

Ministry of Transportation spokes-

THE SEARCH CONTINUES ...

The MTO's new roundabouts on Severn Street off the QEW (Search Engine: Getting around Niagara off the highway, Oct. 29, 2016), opened late last Thursday night. They are the first roundabouts in St. Catharines, with the exception of those on Brock University's property.

FACT FINDER

We asked Search Engine's online readers if they like driving in roundabouts. Of 626 responses, the majority, at 56 per cent said yes, they like driving in them. Another 39 per cent said no. Four per cent said they hadn't decided and one per cent said they'd never driven in one.

woman Astrid Poei said all rules of the road under the Highway Traffic Act apply in roundabouts.

That means drivers can be charged for speeding, failing to yield, following too closely and yes, failing to signal.

Exiting from a roundabout constitutes a right turn and a signal is required, just as it is at a traditional type of intersection so other drivers know what you're intending to do.

Drivers can learn more about how to safely drive through a roundabout, including entering, exiting and dealing with other situations in the MTO's official driver's handbook. They can also find information by going to the ministry's website at www.mto.gov.on.ca and searching "roundabouts."

Send your queries to karen.walter@twinkl.com by Twitter @karnwa_standard or through Facebook at www.facebook.com/karenwaller

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Wainfleet seeking input on new strategic plan

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Wainfleet township is hoping to hear from residents about how they would like to see their community progress in years to come.

A strategic plan is being developed to set mid- and long-term priorities for the township. Community meetings are being organized to give residents a say in what those priorities should be.

In a prepared statement, Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs said the strategic plan "connects current municipal best practices with the intimate knowledge of the township that councillors have."

"The ability of a municipality to build on what has gone before and move forward in a sound and predicable way is crucial to future prosperity," she said.

Chief administrative officer Michael Smith said community involvement is an important part of the process of develop-

ing the strategic plan.

"While the public is well represented by its elected legislators on council, direct feedback means access to the most current trends and considerations in the township from the residents themselves," he said.

Meetings are scheduled to take place at Wainfleet Arena on Nov. 27 from 9 a.m. to noon and at the Community Hall on Nov. 29 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Residents can also fill out surveys at www.surveymonkey.com/r/Wainfleet or pick up and fill out surveys at Wainfleet Township Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Online surveys can be completed until Dec. 1.

Comments received will be compiled as part of a strategic plan goes before council for consideration. Once the strategic plan is approved by council, a work plan and timeline will be developed to implement the actions in the strategic plan.



Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs

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'Mount Welland' future up in the air

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Deciding a future for 'Mount Welland' may be becoming a priority for the city, but most councillors would rather not hire a consultant to tell them what to do with the landfill site.

The old Atlas landfill along the Welland River off Woodlawn Road likely won't be closed until 2021, but city staff are hoping to develop plans for the site long before that date to allow Walker Environmental, which runs the city-owned property, to prepare it for its ultimate use.

"Walkers is eager to work with us," city treasurer Steve Zorbas told councillors at their last Tuesday night meeting.

"They are at a stage now that if they know sooner than later in terms of what the ultimate long-term use will be, they can really reduce the long-term capital improvement plans for

that asset."

Although city staff asked council for \$40,000 to hire a consultant to determine future options for the site, they will have to wait until the end of the month before they learn if the funding will be provided.

"We're also recommending that there be excessive public consultation," Zorbas said, adding that consultation should include members of the existing public liaison committee for landfill sites.

Ultimately, he said, a report would be presented to council for consideration on future uses for the landfill, called 'Mount Welland' by Ward 5 Coun. Mike Petrachenko.

"Forty-grand is a lot of money for anybody for a concept plan," Petrachenko said.

But after discussing potential ideas with city staff about the landfill, such as establishing a BMX bicycle track there, Petrachenko said it is "apparent that we may not have the expertise

in that field."

"We have a great opportunity here for this Mount Welland. It's a great opportunity and we're five years away from capping it," he said.

Meanwhile, Petrachenko said if Walker Environmental is given enough notice about the site's eventual use it "can help to shape whatever the public and council wants."

"The time is now to plan for this later," he said. "To me, \$40,000 is good value because we can get experts in who will then ask the public ... They gather that information and mould it. It's presented back to us and we decide as a council on A, B, C or D. Hopefully there are that many options for this."

Chief administrative officer Gary Long said he supports the funding request, adding although the city has "great staff with a lot of expertise ... our time is limited."

Story continued on Page 29

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PORT COLBORNE - WAINFLEET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Serving the Business Community Since 1902

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we wrap up 2016, it is a good time to provide an update on what the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber has been up to.

We hosted a number of programs including our BAS's Learning Forums, State of the City and Township, State of the Southern Tier, Business Achievement Awards, Lobster and Laughs and most recently our Business Showcase and Breakfast. Many thanks to not only all of our hosts, sponsors, and presenters but to our members who actively participated.

We identified important issues for our membership and provided support and/or opportunities to learn more. Some of the issues included GO Trials, Intermunicipal Transportation, Healthcare, and Energy Costs. We also ensured we had representation on the Port Colborne's Economic Development Advisory Committee as well as the City's Tourism Advisory Committee and have received regular updates. We met with the Township of Wainfleet's new CAO on a few occasions and we have a very informative flow of communication as both the CAO of Port Colborne and Wainfleet participate at the Board level. In addition the Economic Development Officer for the City of Port Colborne also participates at the Board level.

With our official move to the Rosalawn Center happening on November 1st we now have a meaningful resource center for our local businesses at access. Through our many contacts across Niagara we have been able to bring partners to our location to offer support locally.

With membership growing, we successfully provided members with the option of an Associate Membership, giving them a truly regional experience. Members from across our Niagara Chamber Partnership (NCP) have opted in and are now enjoying learning and networking experiences across the region. In September of this year, we successfully added an Associate Membership opportunity with the Niagara USA Chamber of Commerce. This is incredibly powerful for our local businesses because while shop local initiatives are important, business owners know that their market is so much bigger than the community they are located in.

2016 has been a year filled with many great opportunities for our members. As we work on completing the 2017 schedule of events, we are very excited for what lies ahead. Not only will the Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce continue to provide excellent programming locally, we will also offer more joint programming on a regional level, opening up even more opportunities for our members to learn, grow, and thrive.

John Toban

President of the Port Colborne - Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce

The Niagara Chamber Partnership

In Niagara, the eight community Chambers of the Niagara Chamber Partnership represent in excess of 3000 members, and have consistently carried out this long-standing role for as many as 125 years. These chartered Chambers represent specific geographic areas and each works towards the well-being of their respective business communities, all the while supporting each other for the broader good.

The Individual Chambers truly understand the specific needs of the local business communities. By continuing to work together, and with other partners from a variety of sectors, they have a greater sense of the needs across the region.

Senior staff and Board Members have extensive expertise and contacts in a range of industries including business, education, labour and political. Collectively, they have assisted hundreds of entrepreneurs in building businesses and managing growth. The Chambers have provided guidance and support to young entrepreneurs, displaced workers setting up businesses and seasoned professionals. This combined network across the region provides the Niagara Chambers of Commerce with the best intelligence about what businesses need in order to develop, thrive and succeed.

**It's no secret...
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Over 3000 members across Niagara are working together to grow the Partnership.
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Local Chambers of Commerce Directory:

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www.porteriechamber.com
Dolores Fabiano dolores@porteriechamber.com
905-871-3803

Grimsby & District Chamber of Commerce
www.grimsbychamber.com
Jenny Day info@grimsbychamber.com
905-483-8319

Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
www.lincolnchamber.ca
Lisa Port info@lincolnchamber.ca
905-563-5044

Niagara Falls Chamber of Commerce
www.niagarafallschamber.com
Dolores Fabiano dolores@niagarafallschamber.com
905-374-3666

Niagara On The Lake Chamber of Commerce
www.niagaronthelake.com
Janice Thomson tourism@niagaronthelake.com
905-468-1950

Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce
www.pcwchamber.com
Dolores Fabiano dolores@pcwchamber.com
905-834-9765

Welland/Pelham Chamber of Commerce
www.wellandpelhamchamber.com
Dolores Fabiano dolores@wellandpelhamchamber.com
905-732-7515

West Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
www.westlincolnchamber.com
Pamela Haire westlincolnchamber@bell.net
905-957-1606

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR HOLIDAY SOCIAL!

It's a BAS with Bells on! Join us on Tuesday December 6th for our annual Christmas social extravaganza hosted by PostMedia! Members from the Port Colborne-Wainfleet, Welland/Pelham, Niagara Falls and Port Erie Chambers are all invited to enjoy this MAGICAL holiday celebration at the Greg Frewin Theatre. Feel like indulging in some extra Christmas cheer? We will be providing transportation from locations around Niagara, just let us know if you need a ride! Register Online at www.pcwchamber.com, or call our office at 905-834-9765.

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PORT COLBORNE - WAINFLEET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Serving the Business Community Since 1902

Chamber Events

Thank you to our members for participating in our events! The Chamber is proud to provide our membership with a variety of meaningful opportunities to network, learn and grow as business owners. Here is a look back at some of our programming from the past few months...



The Annual Building Niagara Together event, hosted by the Niagara Chamber Partnership, Horizon Utilities and Niagara Industrial association, took place at the Old Stone Inn Boutique Hotel in Niagara Falls, where the Honourable Ted McMeekin spoke to the crowd of Niagara's elected leaders.



Meyer April, Jeffs and Deputy Meyer Bea Kenny updated our members on the state of Wainfleet and Port Colborne at our annual update breakfast hosted at Jericho House and Sponsored by Venture Niagara.



Members gathered at South Coast Guest House for our June BAs and official ribbon cutting ceremony.



The crowd was crackin' claws and the comedians were crackin' jokes at our 21st annual Lobster & Laughs fundraiser hosted at the beautiful Whistley Run Golf Course in August.



Members gathered at Coins Unlimited for a joint BAS in September to kick off the season! New connections were made and plenty of networking took place!



The newest members of the PCW Chamber gathered at Concessi's Long Beach Market and Diner to meet each other, mingle, and enjoy a delicious breakfast.



Port Carles hosted a Joint BAS in October to celebrate the 30 Years of Business that they have provided to the community.

Welcome to the latest members of the Port Colborne - Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce!

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If you are interested in networking with these great business owners (along with hundreds more) contact us today to enquire about membership!

Interested in Hosting a BAS?

We have limited availability for our members to host a Business After Five networking event in 2017. BASs are a great way to get new people in your door, showcase what you offer, and make new connections! No space to host? No problem! Some of the best BASs are the ones where 2 or more businesses partner together. If you would you like the opportunity to host a BAS, contact Katie today for available dates!

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Accepting Nominations for President's Awards

Do you know someone who deserves recognition for their hard work and dedication to the community? Nominate them for a President's Award! We are accepting nominations for Junior Youth Citizen, Youth Citizen and Citizen of the Year as well as Women in Business, New Business of the Year and Business of the Year. Forms will soon be available online, but until then you can contact our office and let us know who deserves a 2017 President's Award!

katie@pcwchamber.com | 905-834-9765



Leslie Preston of TD Bank delivered an insightful presentation on the world economy at our annual Economic Briefing Breakfast.

The Niagara Partnership proudly presented a Health Care Learning Forum Breakfast in October. Experienced health care professionals from around the region took questions and discussed the state of health care in Niagara.

Our Entrepreneurial Support Showcase was held at Rosewell in Early November. With business showcase tables, complimentary breakfast and seminars from Venture Niagara, the Small Business Enterprise Center and Innovate Niagara, this event was a one-stop-shop for excellent information on services available to entrepreneurs in Port Colborne and Wainfleet!

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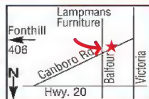
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PHOTOS BY ALLAN BENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

First-year paramedic student Bassett Johri demonstrates some of the equipment used in the program at Niagara College during an open house at the Welland campus on Saturday.

Below: Ethan Robinson, 9, tries out virtual reality goggles while visiting Niagara College during its open house on Saturday.



College opens doors to prospective students

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Prospective students from throughout southern Ontario visited Niagara College's campuses Saturday for a firsthand chance to see what it has to offer.

College director of marketing and recruitment Dorita Pentesco said thousands of visitors arrived at both its Welland and Niagara-on-the-Lake campuses for a look at the facility that could become their second home for the next few years, if they choose to enroll.

"We know it's important for people to come on campus," she said, adding it gives future students an opportunity to see "what it's like there" before they make a decision on enrolling in a post-secondary institution.

Arlene Williams travelled from Hamilton to see the Welland campus, particularly new early childhood educator classrooms.

It's a trip she's wanted to take for the past few years, "but finally we made it."

Pentesco said the college sets up displays of the numerous programs it offers in a central area during its fall open house. It gives future students an opportunity to speak to faculty and students

from different programs and from there visit the facilities where the courses are offered.

Pentesco said about 300 students and faculty were at the campuses to talk about the programs.

"It's important for prospective students and parents and kids to talk to current students because they want to know what it's like," she said. "We have a lot of faculty and a lot of students out."

Pentesco said the attendance at the open house might have been a little more than in past years, but organizers were expecting to see a lot of people.

"We're excited. We love these days," she said, adding many of the people visiting the campuses were from beyond Niagara's borders.

"We're meeting a lot of people from outside Niagara."

Pentesco said she spoke to interested students from Stouville, Cambridge, Kingston and Oshawa during the open house.

"They're coming from all over the province," she said.

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Oosterhoff to 'stay in the riding'

OOSTERHOFF FROM PAGE 18

"I'm just getting everything lined up to be hitting the ground running and getting things done for Niagara and Niagara-West Glanbrook."

While Oosterhoff, who lives with his parents, has yet to make decisions about moving out on his own, he does plan to "stay in the riding as much as possible and do what's best for the taxpayers."

"I'm hoping to stay here as much as I can to make sure that people know I'm their neighbour and I want to have an open door with them."

The first year political science student at Brock University also plans to return to his studies in the new year, on a part-time basis taking night courses and some courses in the summer.

"I'm single so I can dedicate myself 100 per cent to the constituents here, but still find time to complete my studies."

Oosterhoff wasn't even born when former party leader Tim Hudak, the man he's replacing in Niagara-West Glanbrook, was first elected as MPP about 21 years ago.

But although Oosterhoff is new to politics, he will still have extremely experienced people like Hudak to rely on.

He said Hudak has offered to provide advice or help any time he needs it, "and I'm excited to sit down with him and to pick his brains and see what I can learn from him."

Meanwhile, local mayors and other political leaders also have a wealth of knowledge and experience to share.

"That's so important. I think that's absolutely crucial in being an effective

representative provincially you have to have open lines of communication at the regional level and the federal level as well to make sure we're all working together, we're on the same team, we all want to promote the best interests of the families of Niagara-West Glanbrook," he said.

It's apparent that Oosterhoff has also inspired young people while he was winning the votes of his constituents.

For instance, while Oosterhoff was standing at the roadside last Thursday a woman walked up to him accompanied by her young daughter, who was clearly eager to meet him.

"I hope that more and more young people will get involved in politics," Oosterhoff said. "I think it's amazing whenever young people do. And if I can be some small part of inspiring more people to get involved for the betterment of their community and the betterment of Ontario and Canada, then I will be very happy."

Oosterhoff said he's often asked why he chose to run for politics at such a young age.

"The simple answer is democracy," he said. "I think democracy should be by the people and for the people, and people need to have their voices heard. I believe very strongly in the importance of a consultative form of representation. I believe it was important for someone to be out there knocking on doors, listening to concerns and bringing their priorities and their concerns forward."

ABerner@postmedia.com
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Seeing early success

REGION FROM PAGE 18

"Between the three of them, there's been over 66 new jobs created, 20 high-growth firms were assisted through different programs at the college, at the university, or through Innovate Niagara."

"There were four new products developed, and 25 prototypes were developed in these partnerships."

Niagara's planning development commissioner Rino Mostacci said Niagara is "seeing some early success" in its plan to grow its population by at least 10,000 by 2018.

But the Region will need to see a 0.61 per cent average annual growth for the next three years — above its current 0.38 per cent rate — to meet that target.

"We know that we have to bring people in from outside the region. We're not going to grow by 160,000 through our natural birth rate or growth rate, so the face of Niagara is going to change," said Mostacci.

"We have to be proactive in terms of identifying the people that we want to bring to the region to contribute to our economy, and to contribute to our society."

"The sweet spot in terms of where I would like to get the region is to a population growth rate of about one per cent per year. I think that's a reasonable and achievable goal, and it's manageable."

nrpt@postmedia.com
Twitter: @RaySpitzer1

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**Annaleise Carr, 2012 and 2014
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At 14, Annaleise Carr was the youngest person ever to swim across Lake Ontario. Two years later, Annaleise swam across Lake Erie. Combined these efforts raised awareness and hundreds of thousands of dollars for Camp Trillium, a family camp for children with cancer. Her book, *Annaleise Carr: How I Conquered Lake Ontario to Help Kids Battling Cancer*, inspires others to take on great challenges and help their fellow citizens.

Do you know someone who is involved in worthwhile community service, is contributing while living with a limitation, has performed an heroic act, demonstrates individual excellence, or is going above and beyond to help others? If so, nominate them today!

Nominations are open until November 30, and nomination forms are available from this newspaper, and the Ontario Community Newspapers Association at www.ocna.org or 416-923-7724 ext. 4439.



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Major changes prescribed for ambulances

From Page 3

Niagara has a fleet of 34 ambulances available to tackle existing demand.

"Add another 57,000 to that and know what ambulance and staff requirements will be in 10 years," Hamblides said.

While all factors contributing to the increase in volume are not yet known, it's believed Niagara's aging population plays a significant role.

The existing volume is already creating challenges in the system, with response targets not being met "in a number of places," Hamblides said.

Pomax, hired by the Region at a cost of \$85,057, recommends Niagara EMS transition to a research model over a three-year period, during which growth will still continue and additional resources will be required.

"The real key to it is first you have to start with the research and see what you can do to change the curve," Hamblides said. "If you don't do that, your other choice is just to continue adding ambulances or letting those response times slip and saying 'We're going to do our best.'"

"In that case you'll see what is seen in other places, a person with a fractured leg or twisted ankle waiting in a park for an hour or two hours (for transportation)."

The consulting firm recommended Niagara look to Calgary's EMS system, which Pomax also had a hand in implementing, for inspiration. That system has been able to

nearly flatten its ambulance response volume over the past three years, due in part to alternative transport options available and over the phone triage to determine injury or illness of a less serious nature.

However, there are factors impacting the Calgary system that differ significantly from Niagara.

For instance, Niagara's population of residents aged 65 and older, which typically utilize more ambulatory services, is double Calgary's at 18.7 per cent compared to 9.2 per cent.

The Calgary system is run by Alberta Health Services, which allows for 911 dispatchers to direct callers to partnering clinics if they are dealing with a non-urgent medical situation.

The Calgary system also changes substantially more for ambulatory services — \$250 minimum if an ambulance is called but no hospital transport is ultimately required and \$385 minimum if the trip is necessary.

It discourages people from calling an ambulance for injuries or ailments of a less serious nature, Hamblides said. Non-urgent cases are instead directed to an alternative transfer system.

Ontario's ambulance fee is legislated at \$45.

Before Niagara can consider implementing any of the tools being utilized in Calgary, local research must first be conducted, Hamblides said.

A look into what occurs when phone calls for help come in and what happens



Inside of an EMS ambulance in St. Catharines.

once patients are transported to hospital may provide vital information, he said.

By studying whether patients were discharged without treatment, treated and released, or admitted to hospital, patterns can emerge that may show "which patients you can respond to quickly and which patients you can move to a different methodology."

The intention is to find a cost-effective method of using available resources.

That will likely mean an expansion of the community paramedicine program underway in Wellfleet, in addition to other changes, Hamblides said. That program sees an advanced-care paramedic responding to medical calls and completing at-home health assessments in the rural community.

But before alternatives to ambulatory care can be recommended,

"you have to know which patients you're suggesting that to," he said. Research must be done to determine the terminology patients use when calling in, their chain of questions and information patterns that may lead to a referral of that nature.

"You can't do any of that without the research. (There's) too much risk."

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn feels Niagara should be looking for research conducted and best practices implemented elsewhere instead of diving into its own studies unnecessarily.

"I think there's somebody out there that has done this research that we can capitalize on and move quickly on — I'd like to take a ready, aim, fire approach," he said, with more pilot projects instead introduced at a faster pace.

"We can study this thing to

death. It will cost us millions of dollars and at the end of the day, will it be any better than trying pilot projects?"

Dr. Valerie Jueger, Niagara's medical officer of health, said that while some countries are experimenting with various EMS methods, the information local research would yield is not available elsewhere.

"We know at some point there has to be an expansion of (the Wellfleet project), but that has to be based on sound data and more data than we have currently," she said.

Hamblides also added that the recommended research extends beyond that existing pilot and would yield information that would potentially change other aspects of the EMS system as well.

A big component of that research model is public education, Hamblides said, with residents informed about when calling an ambulance is necessary.

Research can also be used to identify frequent users of the EMS system. Community paramedics can then work with those individuals to find proper methods to address their health concerns, he said.

"Once you start doing that across the region, it might have a great impact."

While the recommended model could mean the hiring of up to 10 people for research, logistics and education, those costs will be recovered if call volumes can be stabilized, preventing the need to hire additional EMS staff and purchase additional ambulances, Hamblides said.

Despite the consultant recommendation for two new ambulances in 2017, EMS is requesting only one for the new year. The vehicle was initially requested in 2014, along with three others that have since been granted.

The cost on the tax levy for one ambulance in 2017 is \$453,000, with an additional \$453,000 coming from reserves that will be recouped from the province.

The master plan was referred back to staff to analyze the document.

A management response is expected to come forward to council in early 2017.

The consultant's immediate findings, including the recommendation for the hiring of a research team, was referred to the budget committee for 2017 deliberations, which are underway.

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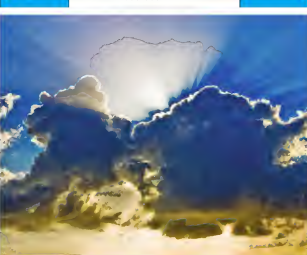
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**TASTE
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